



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

HEALTH AFFAIRS

AUG 10 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR SURGEON GENERAL OF THE ARMY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE NAVY
SURGEON GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE
CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE COAST GUARD

SUBJECT: Policy Change Reducing the "Deemed Enrolled" Period for Newborns

This memorandum revises the policy reflected in the TRICARE Policy Manual chapter 10, section 3.1, page 2, paragraph 2, governing the period in which newborns and newly adopted children are "deemed enrolled" without completion of enrollment application formally enrolling the child in TRICARE Prime. TRICARE Management Activity will publish a manual change to reflect this new policy.

Under current policy, the newborn/adoptee is deemed enrolled for the first 120 days from the date of birth and/or adoption. Effective January 1, 2005, the TRICARE deemed enrolled period will be reduced from 120 days to 60 days from the date of birth and/or the official date of adoption. This change will result in the following benefits:

- Alignment of TRICARE Prime enrollment policy with industry standards
- Earlier assignment to a primary care manager improving continuity of care
- Decreased claims adjudication time and simplified claims processing
- Decreased drain on Military Health System (MHS) funds.

During this deemed enrolled period, claims for any civilian health care received are paid under TRICARE Prime rules without required referrals and authorizations. This minimizes family out-of-pocket costs for any civilian health care received for newborns during this period and ensures priority access to military treatment facilities care while sponsors establish the required eligibility in DEERS and decide whether to enroll the new child in TRICARE Prime or choose TRICARE Extra/Standard.

Due to the unique issues associated with deployments and with overseas locations, the TRICARE Regional Director and Deputy Director of each TRICARE Area Office are granted the authority to extend this policy up to 120 days, on a case-by-case or regional basis.

HA POLICY: 04-020

My point of contact for this action is Lt Col Jim Whitton, TRICARE Management Activity, 703-681-0039.


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cc:

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